

French



Revolution

1. Identify the major tensions and conflicts which existed in Old Regime France in 1788-89, prior to the opening of the Estates General.
2. What are the defining characteristics of the economy of pre-revolutionary France?
3. How were urban and rural poor united and how were they divided in pre-revolutionary France?
4. To what extent was the challenge of any one group responsible for the collapse of the government in France in 1789?
5. How did Enlightenment ideas contribute to the outbreak of revolution in France in 1789?
6. In what ways was the Old Regime in France failing to satisfy the needs of its people?
7. What challenges faced the Church in late eighteenth century France? How did these contribute to the outbreak of revolution?
8. What evidence is there to show that Enlightenment ideas about constitutional monarchy were widespread in Old Regime France?
9. To what extent was aristocratic defiance a key factor in the outbreak of the French Revolution?
10. To what extent was Louis XVI responsible for the outbreak of the French Revolution?
11. Why did the Estates General revolt in 1789?
12. Why is the storming of the Bastille considered a significant event in the outbreak of revolution in France?
13. Discuss the view that the outbreak of revolution in France was actually the culmination of several class revolts?
14. To what extent were the changing circumstances and expectations of the bourgeoisie a factor in the outbreak of the French Revolution in 1789?
15. To what extent was the bourgeoisie the strongest force for change in the Old Regime?
16. Why is the Tennis Court Oath considered a significant event in the outbreak of revolution in France?
17. Explain why the Old Regime in France became increasingly unpopular as it grew weaker in the years prior to 1789.
18. What economic changes contributed a fundamental challenge to the existing economic structure of pre-revolutionary France?

19. Why did the Assembly of Notables in 1787 fail to solve the bankruptcy crisis in France?
20. Explain how the financial crisis of 1788-1789 led to the Tennis Court Oath.
21. How valid is it to assert that Louis XVI caused the French Revolution by calling the Estates General.
22. Discuss the main pressure points that were destabilising the traditional feudal structure of Old Regime France.
23. What was the impact of France's involvement in several wars in the eighteenth century?
24. Why did Louis XVI and the institution of the monarchy lose the respect of many people in France in the years immediately prior to 1789?
25. Discuss the significance of the *cahiers de doléance* in creating a revolutionary situation in 1789.
26. Why are the *cahiers de doléance* so important to historians of the French Revolution?
27. Identify the reason why the government of Louis XVI was unwilling or unable to adjust to changing circumstances by 1787-1789.
28. Outline how economic disputes helped create a revolutionary situation in France in the 1770s and 1780s.
29. Outline how conflict between the estates helped to create a revolutionary situation in France prior to 1789.
30. Outline how the French nobility played a role in the creation of political tensions in the lead-up 1789.
31. Decide at what point reform was unattainable and the revolution inevitable. Provide evidence to support your view.
32. Explain why resistance to reform between 1770 and 1789 helped create a revolutionary situation in France.
33. How did the Assembly of Notables in February 1787 contribute to pressure for revolutionary change between 1787 and 1789?
34. Explain the importance of revolutionary ideas in the development of the French revolution between June and August 1789.
35. How did the ideas of Abbe Sieyes contribute to the development of a revolutionary situation in France in 1789?
36. Explain the importance of the storming of the Bastille in the development of the French Revolution between July and August 1789.

37. Using three or 4 points, explain how Necker's *Compte Rendu* in 1781 contributed to a revolutionary situation by May 1789. Provide evidence to support your answer.
38. Using three or four points explain how political responses made by Louis XVI from May 1789 until August 1789 contributed to the development of the French Revolution. Provide evidence to support your answer.
39. Using three or four points, explain how the meeting of the Assembly of Notables in 1787 contributed to a revolutionary situation by May 1789. Provide evidence to support your answer.
40. Using three or four points, explain how the actions taken by urban workers and by peasants between July and August 1789 contributed to the development of the French Revolution. Provide evidence to support your answer.
41. How did revolutionary leaders and radical ideas create criticisms of the Old Regime in France in the decades before 1789?
42. What were the main political, social and legal principles that were developed in France between June and August 1789?
43. Explain the role of the popular movement in the development of a revolutionary situation in France in 1789.
44. Using three or four points, explain how rising discontent in the Third Estate contributed to a revolutionary situation in France up to May 1789. Provide evidence to support your answer.
45. How did the French government's failure to reform contribute to pressure for revolutionary change between 1781 and 1789?
46. Why did economic tensions contribute to pressure for revolutionary change in France between 1781 and 1789?
47. Explain the importance of revolutionary leaders in the development of the French Revolution.
48. How did the Paris *parlement* contribute to the creation of revolutionary tension in France during the late 1780s?
49. Explain the role of Abbe Sieyes in the development of revolutionary sentiment in France between 1787 and 14 July 1789?

what I'm trying
to **SAY** is ...

DOCUMENT STUDY NINE

Read the document below and then answer the following questions:

The Law of Suspects, issued September 1793.

1. Immediately after the publication of the present decree, all suspects within the territory of the Republic and still at large, shall be placed in custody.

2. The following are deemed suspects:

- i. those who, by their conduct, associations, comments, or writings have shown themselves partisans of tyranny or federalism and enemies of liberty;*
- ii. those who are unable to justify, in the manner prescribed by the decree of 21 March, their means of existence and the performance of their civic duties;*
- iii. those to whom certificates of patriotism have been refused;*
- iv. civil servants suspended or dismissed from their positions by the National Convention or by its commissioners, and not reinstated, especially those who have been or are to be dismissed by virtue of the decree of 14 August;*
- v. those former nobles, together with husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, sons or daughters, brothers or sisters, and agents of the émigrés, who have not constantly demonstrated their devotion to the Revolution;*
- vi. those who have emigrated between 1 July 1789, and the publication of the decree of 30 March (8 April 1792), even though they may have returned to France within the period established by said decree or prior thereto.*

1. List two groups who could be regarded as 'suspects'.

2. Why would those associated with 'émigrés' need to demonstrate their 'devotion to the revolution'?

3. How would the list of suspects have contributed to a growing climate of fear in France in 1793?

what I'm trying
to **SAY** is ...

4. Using your knowledge, explain how the Law of Suspects provided the Revolutionary Tribunal with the means to pursue their political objectives.

5. Explain the usefulness of this extract in understanding the role and nature of the Revolutionary Tribunal.

France (1781-1789)

Account to the King from *Compte rendu au Roi* (Jacques Necker, Geneva, Duvillard, 1781)

Having devoted all my time and my strength in the service of YOUR MAJESTY since you appointed me to this position, it is important for me to give you some public explanations concerning the success of my works and the actual state of the Finances.

I would have renounced to the satisfaction of ... explaining my behavior, if I had not thought that by doing so, all this [information] could have been very useful to YOUR MAJESTY's affairs. Such an institution, if it became permanent, would be the source of the most important advantages because the obligation to publicly show his administration would influence a Finance Minister from the first steps in his career. Darkness and obscurity favor nonchalance. ... This report would also allow each of the people—who are part of YOUR MAJESTY's Councils—to study and follow the situation of the Finances. ... Such an institution could have the greatest influence on public confidence.

In fact, if one fixes his attention on the huge credit England enjoys, and which constitutes their main strength in war, it would be impossible to attribute it entirely to the nature of its Government. Because whatever the authority of the French Monarch is, his interests will always depend on fidelity and justice...

Another reason for the great credit of England is the public notoriety to which the state of Finances is submitted. Each year this state is presented to the Parliament, then it is printed. And all the lenders who regularly know the proportion that is maintained between incomes and expenses are not troubled by suspicions and fanciful fears, which are always part of darkness.

In France, the state of Finances has always been a mystery. If sometimes somebody talked about it, it was only in the preambles of Edicts, and always when money had to be borrowed. But these words, too often the same to be true, have necessarily lost their authority, and men of experience only believe in it because of the moral nature of the Finance Minister. It is important to found confidence on more solid bases....

- a) Identify from the extract **two** reasons for a public report on the state of the French finances.

2 Marks

- b) Identify from the extract **two** ways in which the state of the English finances differ from the state of the French finances

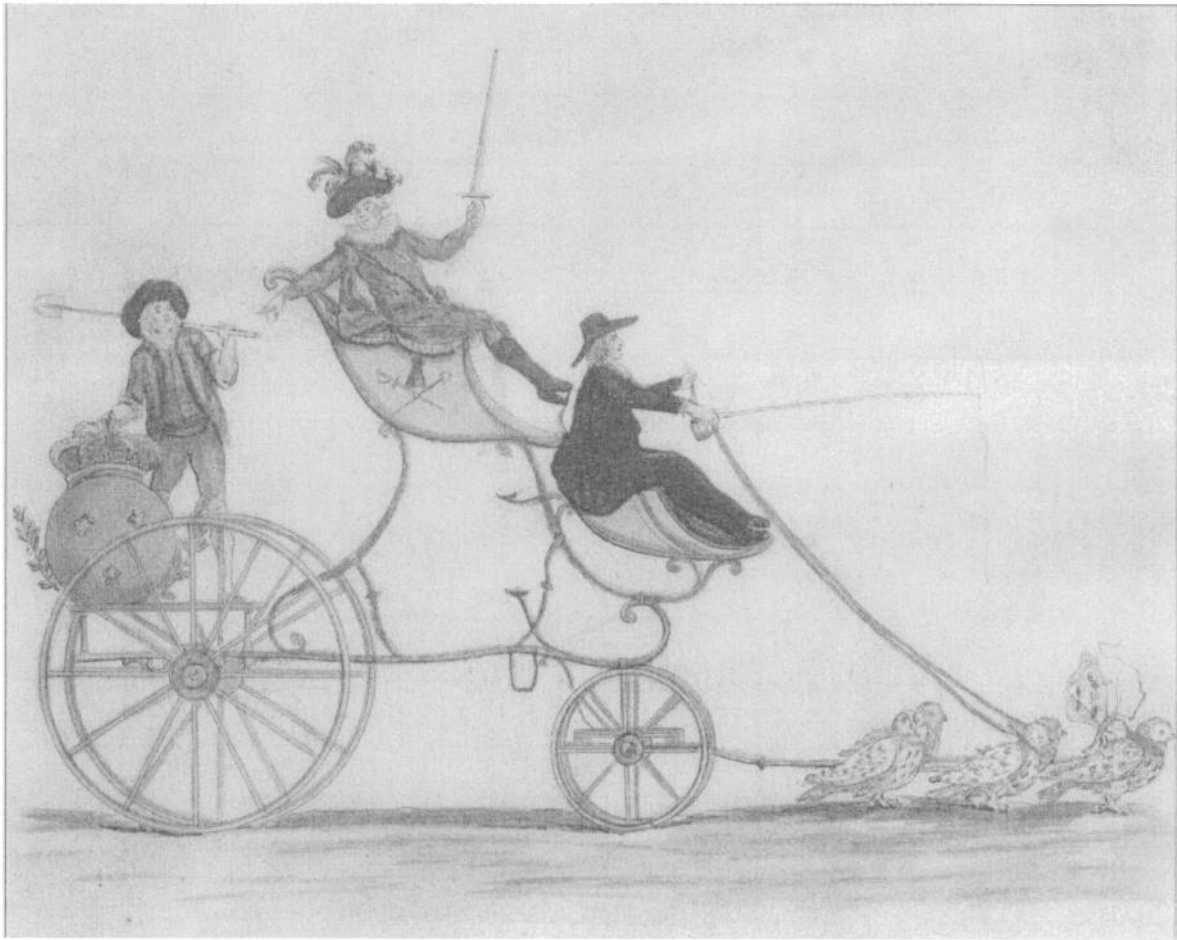
2 Marks

- c) Using your knowledge, explain the effect of the *Compte rendu au Roi*.

6 Marks

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10 Marks



'Departure of the Three Orders for Versailles', Anon, 1789-99. Cornell University Library.

a. Name two details that depict the Second Estate in this representation.

2 Marks

b. Name two details that depict the Third Estate in this representation.

2 Marks

c. Name two criticisms that are made of the ancien regime in this representation.

2 Marks

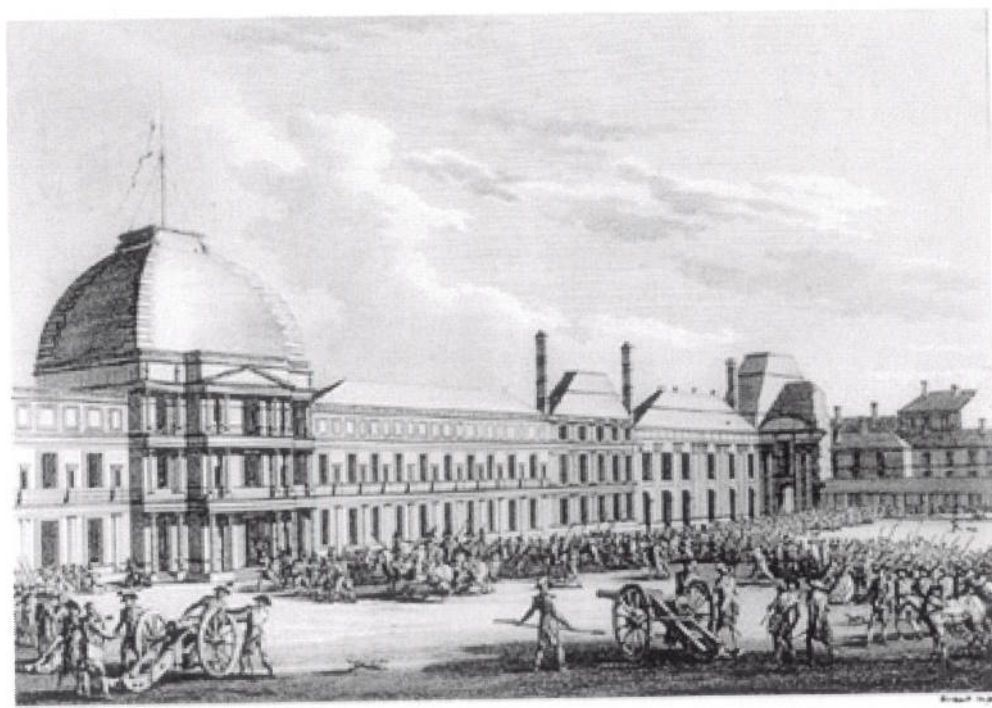
d. Using your own knowledge, explain why the Estates-General was called.

[illegible]

6 Marks

e. To what extent is this representation useful in understanding the social problems that existed in the ancien regime? Discuss differing Historians views.

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LES DÉPUTÉS DE LA NATION EN SEANCE LE 20 JUIN 1789
 (d'après une gravure de l'époque)

The Revolutionary Journee of the 31 May to 2 June 1793

Q. 1a. Identify two social groups depicted in the picture. (2 marks)

Q. 1b. Identify two features in the representation that show how the new society was created. (2 marks)

Q. 1c. Using your own knowledge and the image, explain why the *Journee* of 31 May to 2 June occurred (6 marks)

[illegible]

Q. 1d. Evaluate the usefulness of the representation as evidence of how the new society was shaped from May 1793 to July 1794. Refer to other views of the period.(10 marks)

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Extract from Simon Schama, "Citizen" 1789

"And in dramatic contrastwas the accelerated erosion of respect for the King. His connivance in the exit of the aunts was represented in the Patriotic press as tolerance of , if not sympathy for the position of the Pope, whose official denunciation of the Civil Constitution was announced in March, and whose effigy was burned in the streets of Paris. Pope Pius IV had declared ex cathedra the ordination of constitutional bishops to be sacrilege and required every priest who had taken the oath to recant within forty days on pain of suspension. Through all this Louis lay uncharacteristically sick, with high fevers and hacking bloody coughs. Brooding miserably on his assent to the law enforcing the oath, given on Christmas Eve 1790, he now repented himself of the apostasy. His chaplain, who had taken the oath, was replaced by a pious nonjuror, Pere Hebert, and the King decided henceforth to avoid communion from a constitutional priest. With Holy Week approaching the best solution seemed to be to travel to Saint-Cloud where these devotions could take place away from the anti-clericalism of Paris."

(apostasy: renunciation of a belief/abandoning of principles)

Q. 1a. Identify two declarations of the Pope. (2 marks)

Q. 1b. List two actions Louis took as a result of the Pope's declaration. (2 marks)

Q. 1c. Using your own knowledge and the extract, explain why Louis XVI no longer supported the revolution by 1791. (6 marks)

Q. 1d. Evaluate the usefulness of the representation as evidence of how the new society was shaped from August 5 1789 to August 10 1792. Refer to other views of the period.(10 marks)

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This is an extract from *The Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen* (1789).

Men are born and remain free and equal in rights; social distinctions may only be based upon general usefulness.

[A] common tax is indispensable; it must be assessed equally on all citizens, in proportion to their means.

All citizens, being equal [before the law], are equally admissible to all public offices, positions, and employments, according to their capacity, and without other distinction than that of virtues and talents. [adapted]

- a. How did the revolutionaries propose to get rid of a social and legal system based purely on the privilege of noble birth? (2 marks)

- b. How did the revolutionaries of 1789 apply the principle of equality to the system of taxation? (2 marks)

- c. How did the revolutionaries apply the principle of equality to employment and promotion? (2 marks)

- d. Using your own knowledge and different historians views, explain what ideas and events in the period 1781-1789 had led to the idea of equality before taxation being defined as a basic right? (6 marks)

e. How useful is this document in understanding the key ideas and principles that the revolutionaries hoped to apply to France in 1789? Discuss historians views.
(8 marks)

[illegible]

France (1781-1789)



Louis XVI helping the poor, circa , 1788

a. Identify two different groups symbolised by the figures in this representation.

2 Marks

b. Identify two aspects of this image that suggest difficult living conditions in the Ancien Regime in France.

2 Marks

c. Using your knowledge and the representation, explain the significance of the Third Estate in France before 1789.

6 Marks

10 Marks

France

Rude on the consequences of war

Reference: George Rude, *The French Revolution*, Grove Press, New York, 1988, p73.

[H]ad France remained at peace with the rest of Europe, it is possible that ... the Revolution might have stopped its course or, at least, not been carried far beyond the settlement of 1791. But war broke out in April 1792 and, by the violence of its impact, immeasurably sharpened all existing tensions ... Inevitably, war gave fresh encouragement to those wishing to destroy the Revolution from within and without, and provoked in turn exceptional measures against counter-revolution, aristocracy and 'fanaticism'. It exposed the duplicity and treachery of the Court and brought about the downfall of the monarchy. It led to inflation and rising food prices, and hence to vigorous resistance and agitation by the urban sans-culottes. Through inflation, treachery, defeat and social disturbance, it compelled the Assembly, contrary to its own cherished principles, to set up a strong 'revolutionary' government, to institute the Terror, to control prices and to mobilise the nation for war.

- a. Identify two consequences of war highlighted by Rude.

2 marks

- b. Identify two repercussions of the war for the monarchy that are highlighted by Rude.

2 marks

- c. Identify two measures, according to Rude, undertaken by the Assembly that were contrary to its original principles.

2 marks

- 3d. Using your own knowledge and the extract, explain

- i. why war broke out in France in April 1792

- ii. why, according to Rude, the war 'sharpened all existing tensions'.

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8 marks

France

Extract from 'The Road to the Guillotine', *The Age*, 21 August, 2002, by David Garrioch.

Robespierre remains a controversial figure because he embodies [represents] the contradictions not only of the French Revolution, but of every country that feels itself to be under siege; and of every leader who must make decisions that pit idealism against pragmatism ... [During 1793] Robespierre betrayed most of the principles he stood for. The staunch opponent of capital punishment sent hundreds to the guillotine. The defender of the rights of man suspended civil and political liberties. The spokesperson for religious toleration persecuted priests and nuns ... Faced with military defeat and the loss of all they had hoped for and fought for, he and colleagues set the nation and their vision of the Revolution above civil liberties. Let us defeat our enemies first, they argued, by any means necessary. Then human rights and freedom will be secure.

- a. According to Garrioch, why does Robespierre represent more than just the French Revolution?

2 marks

- b. Which of the principles he stood for did Robespierre break?

2 marks

- c. Why did Robespierre put revolution above civil liberties?

2 marks

- d. Using your knowledge, explain the major ideas that influenced the formation of the new society.

6 marks

10 marks

The following extract is from Reflections on the Revolution in France, written by Edmund Burke and originally published in 1790. Here he writes about the October Days of 1789.

“The king and this queen, and their infant children (who once would have been the pride and hope of a great and generous people) were then forced to abandon the sanctuary of the most splendid palace in the world, which they left swimming in blood, polluted by massacre, sand strewed with scattered limbs and mutilated carcasses. Then they were conducted into the capital of their kingdom. Two had been selected from the unprovoked, unresisted, promiscuous slaughter, which was made of the gentlemen of birth and family who composed the king’s body guard. These two gentlemen, with all the parade of an execution of justice, were cruelly and publicly dragged to the block, and beheaded in the great court of the palace. Their heads were struck upon spears, and led the procession; whilst the royal captives who followed in the train were slowly moved along, amidst the horrid yells, and shrilling screams, and frantic dances, and all the unutterable abominations of the furies of hell, in the abused shape of the vilest of women. After they had been made to taste, drop by drop, more than the bitterness of death, in the slow torture of a journey of twelve miles, protracted to six hours, they were under a guard, composed of those very soldiers who had conducted them through this famous triumph, lodged in one of the old palaces of Paris, now converted into a Bastille for kings. Is this a triumph to be consecrated at altars? To be commemorated with grateful thanksgiving? To be offered to the divine humanity with fervent prayer?” (Taken from the Penguin edition, 1968, p.164-5)

a. What main example does Burke provide of the people’s use of force?

2 marks

b. How does Burke portray the women?

2 marks

c. Why would Burke describe Paris, after the return of the king and queen, as “a Bastille for kings”?

2 marks

d. Using your knowledge, explain the role of the monarchy in creating the new society between 1790 and 1792.

6 marks

8 marks

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This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper appears to be a standard notebook page.

Name two events, which created social and or political tension for the government of Louis XVI between 1781 and June 1789 and explain the significance of one of these events.

[illegible]

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Explain how economic tensions added to a revolutionary situation in France.

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Critiquing short answers:

- Does it address the question in the first sentence?
- Does it end strongly with a good concluding sentence?
- Has it answered the question?
- Does it remain within the timeframe?
- Is there good evidence used?
- Is there a range of evidence?
- Are there several points used?

The Proclamation of the Duke of Brunswick. 1792

J.H. Robinson, ed.

Robinson's Note: *The demands for the suspension of Louis XVI, who was generally believed to be in traitorous correspondence with the Austrians and Prussians, became numerous in the summer of 1792; but it remained for the duke of Brunswick to assure the downfall of the monarchy by his proclamation, which became known in Paris, July 28, and seemed to furnish the agitators with a complete justification for the revolt which they were already planning and which they carried out on August 10.*

...To these important interests should be added another aim equally important and very close to the hearts of the two sovereigns, - namely, to put an end to the anarchy in the interior of France, to check the attacks upon the throne and the altar, to re-establish the legal power, to restore to the king the security and the liberty of which he is now deprived and to place him in a position to exercise once more the legitimate authority which belongs to him.

...The city of Paris and all its inhabitants without distinction shall be required to submit at once and without delay to the king, to place that prince in full and complete liberty, and to assure to him, as well as to the other royal personages, the inviolability and respect which the law of nature and of nations demands of subjects toward sovereigns.. Their said Majesties declare, on their word of honour as emperor and king, that if the chateau of the Tuileries is entered by force or attacked, if the least violence be offered to their Majesties the king, queen, and royal family, and if their safety and their liberty be not immediately assured, they will inflict an ever memorable vengeance by delivering over the city of Paris to military execution and complete destruction, and the rebels guilty of the said outrages to the punishment that they merit.

a) What countries were involved in this war? (2 marks)

b) What happened on the 10th August 1792? (2 marks)

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